pesticide labels

READ THE LABEL

Pesticides protect plants by killing or repelling destructive pests. When not used properly, pesticides can endanger you, your family, and pets.

Your best protection against pesticide accidents is the information on the label of product containers. The labels for all pesticides shipped interstate must be approved by USDA's Pesticides Regulation Division. More than 45,000 pesticide labels are currently registered, each bearing certain required data including warning and caution statements, ingredient statement, directions for use, and USDA registration number.

Each pesticide label spells out how, when, and where a specific product should be used, highlighting all information necessary to the safety of users. You should reread the label every time you use a pesticide. If you don't, you're asking for trouble!

MARK OF SAFETY

Before purchasing any pesticide product you should check the label for a USDA registration number. This number is a "mark of safety" that protects your health and plants.

Federal law requires that all pesticide products sold interstate must be registered with USDA's Pesticides Regulation Division. Registration numbers are not assigned until PRD scientists determine that a product, when used according to label instructions, is both safe and effective.

Many illegally marketed products make false claims, do not list all ingredients, and do not post warning statements. You can help prevent pesticide accidents by reporting pesticide products sold interstate without USDA registration numbers.